

I. Listing of Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A sensor for a ~~vehicle~~ seat belt retractor for a vehicle comprising:

a housing;

an excitation mass that is displaceable relative to the housing in response to inertial forces acting on the vehicle;

~~a locking mechanism which locks the belt retractor upon displacement of the mass;~~

a lever arm connected to the housing at a pivot point, the lever arm contacting the excitation mass upon a predetermined displacement of the excitation mass in response to the inertial forces and causing locking of the seat belt retractor upon the predetermined displacement of the excitation mass; ~~being in contact with the inertia body, the lever arm engaging the locking mechanism when the excitation mass moves relative to the housing;~~ and

a damper that restricts vertical displacement of the excitation mass relative to the housing ~~to prevent~~ thereby restricting ~~undesired retractor locking of the seat belt retractor, the damper not restricting displacement of the excitation mass in response to the inertial forces acting on the excitation mass causing displacement in directions other than in the vertical direction.~~

2. (Original) The sensor of claim 1 wherein the excitation mass is a spherical mass.

3. (Currently Amended) The sensor of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1 wherein the housing is provided with an indentation in which the excitation mass resides when the inertial forces are not acting on the vehicle.

4. (Currently Amended) The sensor of claim 3 wherein the indentation has is defined in part by an inclined surface, ~~movement~~ wherein displacement of the excitation mass relative to the housing ~~being~~ includes a movement over the inclined surface.

5. (Original) The sensor of claim 1 wherein the lever arm is provided with a hole through which the damper extends.

6. (Currently Amended) The sensor of claim 1 wherein the excitation mass is a non-spherical mass that pivots about a point ~~in on~~ defined by the housing.

7. (Currently Amended) The sensor of claim 6 wherein the excitation mass moves the lever arm away from the ~~pivot~~ point as the excitation mass pivots about the pivot point.

8. (Currently Amended) The sensor of claim 1 wherein a gap exists between the lever arm and the ~~locking mechanism~~ excitation mass when ~~the excitation mass is undisturbed~~ the inertial forces are not acting on the vehicle.

9. (Currently Amended) The sensor of claim 8 wherein ~~movement~~ displacement of the excitation mass closes the gap.

10. (Currently Amended) The sensor of claim 8 wherein ~~movement~~ displacement of the excitation mass relative to the housing defines a no lock zone when the gap is greater than zero, the ~~locking mechanism~~ retractor being unlocked when the excitation mass occupies the no lock zone.

11. (Currently Amended) The sensor of claim 8 wherein the movement of the excitation mass relative to the housing defines a lock zone when ~~the gap is about zero~~ the excitation mass undergoes the predetermined displacement and excitation mass contacts the lever arm, the ~~locking mechanism~~ retractor being locked when the excitation mass occupies the lock zone.

12. (Currently Amended) The sensor of claim 1 further comprising one or more additional dampers for restricting vertical displacement of the excitation mass.

13. (Currently Amended) The sensor of claim 12 wherein an at least one of the additional damper provides opposing magnetic fields.

14. Cancelled.